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Chairman: Mr. MORADI (Islamic Republic of Iran)
(Vice-Chairman)

CONTENTS

GENERAL DEBATE ON ALL DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY ITEMS (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.35 a.m.

GENERAL DEBATE ON ALL DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AGENDA ITEMS (continued)

1. Ms. MASON (Canada) said that in view of the financial constraints facing the Organization and in line with the Chairman's suggestions on the need for greater efficiency in the work of the Committee, instead of delivering a statement or providing an executive summary of it, she would merely recommend that all delegations read the statement by Canada, the text of which had been circulated for that purpose. She drew particular attention to the last four pages of the text, which described Canada's initial and favourable reaction to the Chairman's proposal to reform the agenda of the Committee.

2. Mr. BAICHORAU (Belarus) said that with the events of the past four years, the very concept of security had changed to encompass economic, ecological and humanitarian aspects. In that connection, he endorsed the approach for guaranteeing international peace and security outlined by the Secretary-General in his report "An Agenda for Peace". The Government of Belarus was currently looking into the possibility of sending troops to participate in United Nations peace-keeping operations and believed that the United Nations could and should be the cornerstone for the new system of international security.

3. Moreover, it was clear that poverty was a catalyst for all kinds of conflicts. By assisting countries in solving their economic problems, the international community could make a decisive contribution to global security, in line with the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report on "New dimensions of arms regulation and disarmament in the post-cold-war era".

4. Priorities in the field of disarmament should be the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and the development of new types of weapons of mass destruction, negotiations on a comprehensive test-ban treaty and an end to the production of fissionable material. His delegation intended to submit under agenda item 57 a draft resolution on the prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons which it hoped would be adopted by consensus.

5. It was important to strengthen all aspects of non-proliferation regimes. Belarus would support any measures aimed at preventing the proliferation of technology used to manufacture missiles capable of carrying nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. Furthermore, it intended to circulate as an official General Assembly document, on behalf of the Republics which had emerged from the former USSR, a declaration on the subject. In the declaration the countries concerned indicated their willingness to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and apply IAEA safeguards to their nuclear activities. They also expressed their support for the indefinite extension of the NPT and chemical and bacteriological disarmament as well as strict controls on the export of equipment or technologies which might be used for the manufacture of weapons of mass destruction or their delivery systems. As a result, Belarus hoped that the unnecessary limitations on the export of new technologies and similar trade restrictions imposed on the successor States of the former USSR would be lifted in the near future.

(Mr. Baichorau, Belarus)

6. Having acceded to the NPT, ratified the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (START-I) and its Protocol and signed an agreement with the Russian Federation on the withdrawal of strategic forces, Belarus had effectively renounced the possibility of having nuclear weapons on its territory. It therefore felt entitled to demand additional guarantees from the Nuclear Powers for its national security. It was also grateful to those States which had offered technical assistance for dealing with the consequences of having nuclear weapons stationed on its territory.

7. He expressed satisfaction at the number of countries which had already signed the Chemical Weapons Convention, and hoped that it would enter into force in January 1995. The regime of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction might also be strengthened by establishing an appropriate verification mechanism.

8. The issue of regional disarmament and confidence-building measures should be examined in a broader context and a more pragmatic fashion. By eliminating the huge stockpiles of armaments left behind by the armed forces at the former Soviet Union, Belarus could make an invaluable contribution to strengthening regional and international security. However, in its current economic situation, it was unable to shoulder the enormous financial burden that process would entail. He therefore appealed to the developed countries to assist Belarus in that task, so as to meet the requirements of the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe and cause minimum damage to the environment. Belarus agreed on the importance for confidence-building of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, and had already submitted information to the Register.

9. In order to enhance the multilateral process of disarmament and ensure that the United Nations continued to play a unique role in international peace and security, better coordination among the different bodies involved was required. In that connection, Belarus supported the proposals for broader and more balanced membership of the Conference on Disarmament. Likewise, it endorsed the proposal aimed at rationalizing the work and reforming the agenda of the First Committee.

10. Mr. KOVANDA (Czech Republic) stressed the growing importance in the post-cold war era of all disarmament activities, which he hoped would strengthen not only global security but also the stability of individual regions. Despite the remarkable achievements of recent years, the practical implementation of disarmament agreements was progressing too slowly and proving as formidable a task as that of negotiating new treaties. He therefore welcomed the interest shown by a number of countries in facilitating the implementation of the START I and START II Treaties. He applauded the unprecedented measures adopted by the United States of America and the Russian Federation in handling the sensitive security issues involved, which augured well for future cooperation in the area.

11. The Czech Republic made its own contribution to the implementation of disarmament treaties, for instance by receiving and conducting on-site

(Mr. Kovanda, Czech Republic)

inspections under the provisions of the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe. Furthermore, a National Preparatory Commission had recently been established in Prague with a view to ensuring the timely ratification of the Chemical Weapons Convention. That already difficult task was complicated by the process of reform under way in the country which affected inter alia the chemical industry. However, every effort was being made to prepare the legislative and industrial groundwork for the earliest possible entry into force of the Convention, and the Czech Republic would welcome any opportunity to exchange experience on the subject with other States.

12. The Czech Republic wished to become a full member of the Geneva Conference on Disarmament, and considered that the most appropriate way to expand its membership would be to admit all interested countries. It was regrettable that so much time had been devoted to the question and yet no agreement had been reached, for there were other more important issues to be resolved. He welcomed the decision of the Conference to launch multilateral negotiations on a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty (CTBT). However, the progress achieved so far could be thwarted by the one nuclear-weapon country which chose to ignore the will of the international community in that regard.

13. In his view, the continued moratorium on nuclear testing and a steady progress of negotiations were prerequisites for the indefinite extension of the NPT at the review conference in 1995. In that connection, he stressed the need to endorse the findings of the relevant group of scientific experts. The Czech Republic would continue to support the activities of the group and was willing to provide the expertise and facilities for future verification of the CTBT through seismic means. Apart from non-proliferation measures the nuclear-weapon States should provide security assurances vis-à-vis the non-nuclear-weapon States prior to the review conference. He shared the concerns of other delegations regarding the growing risks of legitimate activities which might lead to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems. The problem should be addressed by increasing transparency in military activities and encouraging the work of specific groups or regimes in particular areas. Czech legislation was currently being amended to bring it into line with the activities of such groups, and his Government's long-term policy was for the establishment of a universal and non-discriminatory regime for the export of sensitive items and technologies.

14. The importance of conventional disarmament should not be overlooked. To that end, his country was committed to the further improvement of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and urged all Member States to submit their national reports without delay. As to the Biological Weapons Convention and the general recognition of the need to take a closer look at biological research and its application, the former Czechoslovakia had agreed to provide information on its laboratories and to take other measures aimed at confidence-building. With regard to the latter, he stressed the importance of implementing the verification measures recommended by the Ad Hoc Group of Governmental Experts to Identify and Examine Potential Verification Measures from a Scientific and Technical Standpoint (the VEREX process). In that connection, the Czech Republic intended to support proposals for the inclusion of verification provisions in the Biological Weapons Convention.

(Mr. Kovanda, Czech Republic)

15. The Czech Republic welcomed the proposal by the representative of France to review the Convention on the Prohibition or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects. With a view to attracting more signatories to the Convention, he recommended that the review conference scheduled for 1994 should be open to experts from all countries. In conclusion, his delegation was committed to fulfilling the mandate of the Committee as outlined by the Chairman, and looked forward to seeking appropriate solutions to the many urgent items on the agenda, including the issue of non-proliferation.

16. Mr. ZAHRAN (Egypt) said that the revitalized United Nations was playing its proper role in addressing regional conflicts, particularly through the deployment of preventive diplomacy. Where preventive diplomacy failed, however, peace-keeping should not be seen as an objective in itself but should be complemented by a realistic process of peacemaking and peace-building.

17. Egypt welcomed progress towards lasting peace in the Middle East following the signing of the agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) on a declaration of principles. He drew attention, in that context, to Egypt's initiative for the establishment of the Middle East as a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction. In addition, Egypt was encouraged by progress towards the conclusion of a treaty on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Africa and hoped that the preparatory work would be completed in 1994.

18. Turning to the report by the Secretary-General entitled "New dimensions of arms regulation and disarmament in the post-cold-war era" (A/C.1/47/7), he affirmed Egypt's support for its conclusion that a globalization of the process of arms control and disarmament was now needed. Egypt had accordingly transmitted to the Centre for Disarmament Affairs its detailed reaction to that report.

19. With regard to the process of streamlining the work of the Conference on Disarmament, Egypt encouraged efforts to promote coordination among the existing disarmament forums and believed that the extensive experience gathered by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) would greatly assist the Conference in that task. Egypt hoped that a similar streamlining process would be reflected in the First Committee's 1993 resolutions, which should deal with each issue in a single unified manner, resulting in fewer but clearer resolutions, as compared to the longer and more repetitive resolutions produced by the clustering procedure.

20. Always a fervent supporter of a complete ban on nuclear testing, Egypt welcomed the new political will conducive to such an enterprise and hoped that the Conference on Disarmament would achieve a comprehensive test-ban treaty (CTBT) before the end of its 1994 session. Such a step would greatly promote the successful outcome of the 1995 NPT review conference. In that context, Egypt regretted the nuclear test explosion conducted by China earlier in October and hoped that it would be the last such test. It had been proved, however, that nuclear capability could be achieved without resorting to testing, and

(Mr. Zahran, Egypt)

universal adherence to a CTBT should therefore be coupled with universal adherence to the NPT. To that end, Egypt welcomed the recent announcement by the United States of new measures to tighten control of the transfer of fissionable materials and to promote an international convention to ban the production of such materials for military use.

21. The success of the 1995 NPT review conference would be significantly promoted by progress in achieving comprehensive security assurances for non-nuclear-weapon States, sufficiently effective and credible to satisfy such States that the international community, and the five permanent members of the Security Council in particular, would react firmly to any use or threats of use of nuclear weapons against them. While Security Council resolution 255 (1968) had established the principle of such security assurances, its shortcomings necessitated the elaboration of a new framework, preferably leading to an international convention establishing comprehensive assurances for non-nuclear-weapon States.

22. On the important issue of transparency in armaments, Egypt believed that its scope should be widened to include all types of arms, including weapons of mass destruction and high technology with military applications. It therefore welcomed the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms as a positive step in the area of arms control but had reservations concerning the current form of the Register and believed it should be developed in accordance with the proposals submitted by Egypt and contained in document A/48/344.

23. While Egypt had joined the consensus on the guidelines and recommendations for regional approaches to disarmament within the context of global security, contained in document A/48/42, it regretted a lack of clarity in the text on certain important issues. It also regretted the failure to reach agreement on the issue of the role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields and hoped that any agreements reached on the question would respect the principles of universality and transparency.

24. Mr. KATHAMBANA (Kenya) said that Kenya joined other non-nuclear States in calling upon the two major nuclear Powers to implement all their commitments under the recently signed START II Treaty. Nuclear disarmament efforts should also, however, involve the international community as a whole and, to that end, every effort should be made to ensure that the Chemical Weapons Convention achieved universal status at the earliest possible date.

25. Serious concern was also aroused by conventional arms, which not only affected the areas of conflict but had adverse overspill effects in neighbouring countries, as exemplified by Somalia, whose conflict posed a serious threat throughout the Horn of Africa. The issue of international arms transfers and controls should therefore be seriously reviewed, and the international community as a whole, particularly the manufacturing and recipient countries, should strive for greater transparency and accountability in that area.

26. While the recently introduced United Nations Register of Conventional Arms represented an important first step towards a new era in arms control and should be linked with United Nations work in preventive diplomacy and peacemaking, it

(Mr. Kathambana, Kenya)

should aim to achieve transparency and confidence-building while taking into account the specific features of each region.

27. With regard to the CTBT, Kenya maintained that, while moratoriums represented a positive step, they were not a substitute for a multilateral and verifiable legal instrument in that area. Progress towards the CTBT would significantly contribute to a successful result of the 1995 NPT review conference, and Kenya hoped that a comprehensive test ban could be achieved by the time the NPT came up for extension. In addition, it believed that the Conference on Disarmament was the most effective multilateral forum for negotiations on a CTBT.

28. Effective international arrangements were urgently needed to assure non-nuclear States against the use or threat of nuclear weapons, and a regional approach to disarmament, taking full account of the specific conditions and problems of given regions, should be given close attention, particularly in view of the escalating conflicts in different regions of the world. Kenya attached particular importance to the establishment of zones of peace, which would enhance regional peace and stability and promote extraregional cooperation. Accordingly, it supported the establishment of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace and reaffirmed its commitment to the 1964 Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa.

29. Mr. HON Zhitong (China) said that, instead of peace and prosperity, the end of the cold war had released previously submerged contradictions, which had grown into serious political, economic and social crises, frequently erupting into full-scale armed conflict. Peace and development could only be achieved through a new international political and economic order, based on peaceful coexistence and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, with a recognition of the diversity of the world and differences among States. Notwithstanding progress in the field of disarmament, the United States and the Russian Federation still possessed the largest and most sophisticated nuclear and conventional arsenals, and the goal of the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of all types of weapons of mass destruction still remained remote.

30. On the issue of nuclear testing, he recalled the statement by the Chinese Government reiterating its principled position on nuclear disarmament and a nuclear test ban and putting forward a number of suggestions (A/C.1/48/3). China had always supported the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons and a comprehensive test ban; consequently, it had always exercised utmost restraint in nuclear testing, conducting a very limited number of tests. China would take an active part in the negotiations for a CTBT, with a view to concluding the treaty by 1996. At the same time, it believed that a pledge by all nuclear-weapon States to refrain completely from the use of nuclear weapons would be a more effective step towards the goal of non-proliferation. To that end, parallel negotiations should be conducted by all nuclear-weapon States on concluding an international convention on the unconditional non-first use of nuclear weapons and non-use and non-threat of use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States and nuclear-weapon-free zones. For its part, when China developed its first nuclear weapons in 1964, it had undertaken that at no time and under no circumstances would it be the first

(Mr. Hon Zhitong, China)

to use such weapons and that it would not use or threaten to use weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States or nuclear-free zones. He stressed that, according to the relevant documents and resolutions of the General Assembly, the countries possessing the largest nuclear arsenals had a special responsibility for the realization of the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons.

31. As a non-chemical-weapon State, China had welcomed the conclusion of the Chemical Weapons Convention and had been among the first to sign it. It had always resolutely opposed the proliferation of all weapons of mass destruction and, to that end, had acceded to the NPT in March 1992. In addition, it actively promoted international cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and had formulated explicit regulations on its own nuclear exports, which included placing them under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards.

32. He stressed that current international arrangements banning certain types of weapons and controlling arms transfers should be applied in a non-discriminatory manner, and not used by certain Powers to maintain military superiority. China also denounced the presumption of a certain State which had set itself up as a policeman of the world, yet flouted international law and norms of international relations on the pretext of enforcing the ban on chemical weapons. China joined the other developing countries in insisting that the current discriminatory export controls systems, established and manipulated by a small number of supplier countries, should be replaced by a fair and non-discriminatory non-proliferation machinery.

33. With regard to conventional weapons transfers, China had always exercised restraint and responsibility, and favoured the adoption of appropriate and practical transparency measures. At the same time, it maintained that such measures should not undermine the security of any country and should be formulated jointly by all States on the basis of equality.

34. China had consistently supported the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, and welcomed the results of talks between the United States and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. It hoped that those countries would continue their negotiations in a patient, flexible and constructive manner.

35. In addition, China attached great importance to the maintenance of peace and stability in its own region and, to that end, had held negotiations with the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan on the reduction of military forces in the frontier areas and on relevant confidence-building measures in the military field. In addition it had concluded important bilateral agreements with the Russian Federation and India which would promote peace and stability in the Asian-Pacific region as a whole.

36. Mr. LAMAMRA (Algeria) said that the Committee's annual general debate on disarmament and international security items had become a barometer of the international political climate. The new realities in the world could facilitate bolder and more decisive steps towards disarmament. The Chemical Weapons Convention, for the first time, banned a whole category of weapons of

(Mr. Lamamra, Algeria)

mass destruction in all stages of production. The decision by the Conference on Disarmament to give the Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban a mandate to negotiate a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty must not be undermined by any unilateral action; it should lead as soon as possible to the conclusion of a treaty which would complement the NPT. Meanwhile, unilateral moratoriums on nuclear testing must be scrupulously observed.

37. The continuation of the dialogue between the two major nuclear Powers was encouraging; the Vancouver Declaration, START II and the Lisbon Protocol should make it possible to achieve a significant reduction in strategic arsenals. However, those reductions would not suffice to protect mankind from destruction; all nuclear arsenals must be eliminated. Algeria called for further, more decisive steps to promote the advent of an international order which would be based not on supremacy in arms but on universal security. The global challenges of epidemics, natural disasters and underdevelopment could then be tackled in a spirit of solidarity. Disarmament must be viewed in global terms and negotiations on a comprehensive nuclear test ban must be carried out in good faith in the Conference on Disarmament; furthermore, the ban on the production of fissionable materials must be combined with a ban on nuclear-weapons tests and other related measures to allow real progress towards the elimination of nuclear weapons.

38. The nuclear disarmament process must also be pursued at the bilateral and multilateral levels. Measures must be taken to prohibit, in all circumstances, the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons against all non-nuclear weapon States; those guarantees must be embodied in a legal instrument which would be binding on all the nuclear Powers. Negotiations for the elaboration of such an agreement must be begun in the Conference on Disarmament. At the NPT review conference, a timetable would need to be drawn up of the stages leading to complete nuclear disarmament. A balance must be achieved between preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and providing for the transfer of technology for development purposes.

39. At the same time, the extension of the arms race to other areas, particularly outer space, must be prevented; all States possessing advanced space technology must make a commitment to stop all military activities as a basis for the strengthening of the existing legal regime.

40. Since international security benefited everyone, as many countries as possible should be involved in laying its foundations. With the growth of multilateralism and of decision-making by consensus, the need to enlarge United Nations bodies such as the Security Council or the Conference on Disarmament was clear. Algeria therefore supported the O'Sullivan formula for the admission of new members to the Conference on Disarmament, even though the negotiations could be more arduous as a result. The adaptation of the composition and working methods of United Nations bodies to respond to the demand for participation and transparency was one of the best guarantees of universal support for the results that were expected to be achieved.

41. International security was also the sum of all efforts to establish or strengthen regional security. Algeria was naturally concerned with the prospects of global, just and lasting peace in the Middle East which would

(Mr. Lamamra, Algeria)

accord with the national rights of the Palestinian people, restore all occupied Arab territories, and make the Middle East a zone that was free from all weapons of mass destruction. Algeria was also keenly interested in the efforts to elaborate legal instruments for the denuclearization of Africa and the accession of the continent, with the support of the African States themselves and of non-African nuclear Powers, to the status of a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

42. The development of the Mediterranean as an area of peace and cooperation was an essential objective of Algeria's foreign policy; although tensions had developed because of the disputes between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and certain other countries, Algeria was determined to work to develop partnership and shared responsibility in the security and development of the Mediterranean area. Common interests and the need for a dynamic balance in the socio-economic development of the two banks of the Mediterranean should be the basis for a strategic vision of the future taking into account all the constants and variables of interdependence.

43. Mr. RATNAM (Singapore) said that the dramatic progress achieved in global disarmament was not just the by-product of the end of the cold war but the result of a recognition that international peace and security could be achieved only by common efforts.

44. His delegation reiterated its concern about the continuing proliferation of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction. It welcomed the accession of Belarus to the NPT and looked forward to the accession of other countries. There were disturbing signs that other States possessed or planned to develop nuclear weapon capabilities. The discovery of the scale of Iraq's nuclear weapons programme had served to deepen suspicions of the continued refusal of some countries to allow IAEA inspection of their facilities.

45. With the current preoccupation with peace-keeping, disarmament issues could be unjustifiably marginalized. Disarmament was both an objective in itself and a central component of any vision for a new world order. As immediate as the demands of peace-keeping were, the need to preserve and strengthen the progress achieved in peace building must be kept in mind.

46. In the post-cold-war era, a more complex pattern of international cooperation and competition in an increasingly regionalized world had emerged. Without the imperative of super-Power competition, the major Powers were turning inwards to deal with their own domestic problems. In their place, the United Nations was assuming the central role in maintaining international peace and security. However, the multiple and simultaneous crises across the world were straining the Organization's resources and, consequently, undermining its credibility. Recent developments in Somalia and Bosnia and Herzegovina clearly demonstrated that while the major Powers were supportive of United Nations efforts in those areas, their national interests also played a major part in their decisions to be involved. Creative approaches were needed to supplement and reinforce the role of the United Nations in preventing conflict, managing crisis and resolving disputes. The States concerned were best able to assess the necessary steps to build peace and strengthen regional cooperation in concert with the United Nations and the international community.

(Mr. Ratnam, Singapore)

47. In the Asia and Pacific region, where there were no comprehensive institutionalized mechanisms for dealing with peace, security and disarmament, regional organizations like the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) were exploring ways and means of creating such structures in cooperation with the United Nations. In resolution 47/53 B, the General Assembly had endorsed the purposes and principles of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in South-East Asia. International recognition gave weight to the Treaty as the basis of a peaceful regional order, not just for South-East Asia but for the broader Asian and Pacific region. It also served as an example of how regional countries could contribute, in conjunction with the United Nations, towards the maintenance of international peace and security, in accordance with the Charter. In July 1993, ASEAN had established the ASEAN Regional Forum which, for the first time, brought together all the major Powers in one common forum with ASEAN countries and other regions to discuss political and security issues in the Asian and Pacific region.

48. Regional mechanisms would never be able to replace the United Nations in the maintenance of peace and security; a coordinated approach was needed. The successful resolution of the Cambodian conflict had been the direct result of cooperation between countries in the region and the United Nations, and could serve as a model for such cooperation.

49. His delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's efforts to strengthen disarmament mechanisms, and strongly supported ongoing efforts to rationalize the work of the Committee; however, any such rationalization should be undertaken on the basis of consensus among Member States.

50. Mr. TÜRK (Slovenia) said that his delegation fully agreed that the Committee should consider its traditional agenda items within the broader context of international peace and security issues. In that connection, it was also important to reach agreement on the specific role of the General Assembly in efforts to be pursued with a view to preempting or containing any situation which was potentially dangerous.

51. The Charter provided a meaningful and largely underutilized framework for action by the General Assembly in the field of preventive diplomacy. Under Article 14, the General Assembly could recommend measures for the peaceful adjustment of any situation, regardless of origin, which it deemed likely to impair the general welfare or friendly relations among nations. The International Court of Justice, in an advisory opinion delivered in 1962, had expressed the view that the General Assembly, in the effort to adjust such a situation, could pursue any measure short of coercive action (ICJ, Reports of judgments, advisory opinions and orders, 1962, p. 163). The Court had thus offered an important interpretation of the delimitation of the roles of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

52. The development of regional security mechanisms and the strengthening of cooperation between regional arrangements and the United Nations would help in evolving a comprehensive approach to international security. The agreement on cooperation between the United Nations and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) reached earlier in 1993 was a good example of such cooperation and should be followed by further steps for more coordinated

(Mr. Türk, Slovenia)

activity, both in the General Assembly and in the Security Council. Cooperation between the United Nations and CSCE would demonstrate the need to approach security issues at different levels and in different fields in a well-coordinated manner. In addition to action in such fields as disarmament and arms reduction, new initiatives should be launched in the field of preventive diplomacy and confidence-building. In order to address the root causes of potential conflicts, due attention should be given to issues of national minorities and to the elimination of human rights violations. Such an approach would require the mobilization of a variety of European institutions.

53. A comprehensiveness approach to international security would be meaningful only if it was accompanied by increased effectiveness of the relevant international institutions. His delegation supported the current efforts to pave the way to reform and enlargement of the Security Council while, at the regional level, it regarded NATO and its evolution as the core factor for peace, security and stability in the entire Euro-Atlantic region. It hoped that all European States would join the North Atlantic Cooperation Council and accept as soon as possible commitments which would prevent the emergence of threats to international security. The need to assure long-term stability in the Euro-Atlantic region would necessitate the admission of new members to NATO and the establishment of legally defined relations of partnership with other European States.

54. Disarmament measures, especially those related to weapons of mass destruction, transparency in armaments and arms reduction, constituted an important aspect of efforts to strengthen international security. His delegation welcomed the signing of START II and hoped that other agreements would follow that positive step towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons. It also welcomed the progress made towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Africa and the decisions of Brazil and Argentina to accept IAEA safeguards. It hoped for similar positive progress in other regions and that IAEA safeguards would be made as comprehensive as possible. While his delegation supported the indefinite extension of the NPT, it believed that the success of the 1995 review conference would be greatly aided by progress towards a CTBT and comprehensive security assurances. The recent decision by the Conference on Disarmament regarding negotiations on such a treaty and by four of the nuclear-weapon States to suspend nuclear testing were encouraging signs from that point of view.

55. His delegation also welcomed the progress made in the context of the Convention on Prohibition of the Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and the Preparatory Committee for the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. Universal ratification of and adherence to the Convention was one of the most important objectives in the field of disarmament.

56. Transparency in armaments was an essential element of confidence- and security-building measures, and the Register of Conventional Arms represented an important achievement which created a solid basis for future work, possibly on transparency with respect to non-conventional weapons as well. His delegation hoped that next year a majority of States would exchange the information included in the Register. It also welcomed the organizational efforts of the Secretariat to prepare for the implementation of the Register and the

(Mr. Türk, Slovenia)

establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency in Armaments created by the Conference on Disarmament.

57. His delegation firmly supported the enlargement of the membership of the Conference and hoped that a consensus on such enlargement would soon be possible.

58. Mr. SHAHID (Maldives) said that the renewed political will being shown in addressing issues such as disarmament, international peace and security, human rights and the environment, while laudable, should not be allowed to divert attention from the long-term goal of global disarmament. His delegation welcomed the signing of the START II Treaty and called on all parties concerned to take the steps necessary to bring the Treaty and the Lisbon Protocol into force at the earliest possible date. The imposition of a complete ban on nuclear weapons testing would be a key factor in helping to prevent the further proliferation and improvement of nuclear weapons. His delegation commended the United States, France and the Russian Federation for their decisions not to resume testing, and welcomed the decision by the Conference on Disarmament to begin negotiating a comprehensive test-ban treaty. It was, however, saddened by China's decision to break the de facto moratorium on tests, which was a serious setback in the continuing efforts for the early conclusion of such a treaty. His delegation welcomed the increasing acceptance of the NPT, by the international community, but was alarmed at the non-compliance by certain States with the IAEA safeguards agreements and the continued efforts of others to produce nuclear weapons. It called on those States to respect the principles of non-proliferation and the spirit of the Treaty and again called on all States to accede to the Treaty in order to make the non-proliferation regime truly universal. His Government's commitment to the Treaty remained unwavering and it would support its indefinite extension at the 1995 review conference.

59. It was also his Government's hope that with the positive changes taking place in the realm of nuclear disarmament, it would soon be possible to realize the goal of a nuclear weapon free zone in south Asia. However, it was too early to make specific proposals such as the convening of a conference on the subject; adequate consultations should first be carried out to narrow the gap between the different points of view. The Maldives was also firmly committed to the establishment of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace, but felt that only parts of the 1971 Declaration and some elements of the 1979 Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean were relevant in the light of recent developments. It shared the view expressed in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean that a step-by-step approach to the issue should be taken.

60. His Government supported the recently-concluded Chemical Weapons Convention, as well as the Biological Weapons Convention, to which it had acceded early in 1993. It was alarmed by the continued acquisition and stockpiling of conventional armaments, and believed that the establishment of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms was a useful first step towards controlling them.

61. International peace and security were the concern of all countries, small, medium-sized and large alike, but the ability of those countries to face the

(Mr. Shahid, Maldives)

challenges involved was markedly different. Small States which lacked adequate financial resources for the acquisition of arms and faced severe constraints in manpower were never in a position to provide adequately for their own security, and the United Nations remained the only guarantor of that security.

62. Mr. JARAMILLO (Colombia) said that the international community's strategy for the immediate future must be based on the principles of equality and cooperation in order to make the new order compatible with the goals of development and democracy for all. Effective control of the production and transfer of both conventional weapons and weapons of mass destruction was basic to the attainment of those goals. Collective security depended on the open and transparent cooperation and commitment of all States, and could not be defined by a limited number of countries. Discriminatory and inequitable policies increased the risk of the uncontrolled production, development and proliferation of nuclear and conventional arms.

63. The political and economic arguments for responsibility in international arms transfers were obvious, but stress must also be placed on the humanitarian imperatives involved. The suffering of whole populations condemned to endure the devastating consequences of war must not be ignored. His delegation therefore planned to submit a draft resolution to the First Committee proposing that the subject be discussed by the Disarmament Commission in 1994.

64. It was cause for concern that the world's chief arms producers were permanent members of the Security Council; at the same time, however, it was a ground for hope, because those same States were in a position to exercise effective control over conventional arms transfers and in particular over the illicit trade in such arms, and they should not delay doing so.

65. It was also a cause for concern that reduction and control of conventional weapons in some regions might lead to their transfer to other regions. Arms transfers indeed constituted a source of high profits for some countries, but economic interests must not take precedence over humanitarian ones. A serious study of international transfers of conventional arms should be undertaken by both the First Committee and the Disarmament Commission. The Register of Conventional Arms was an expression of the international solidarity and cooperation required for such a study, as well as a means of building the confidence required for general and complete disarmament. The conclusion of the Chemical Weapons Convention was another demonstration of the understanding and commitment required, and the field of conventional disarmament should be approached with the same seriousness, commitment and resolve.

66. Although advances had been made with respect to nuclear disarmament, the danger of nuclear proliferation remained. Moratoriums were a step towards general and complete nuclear disarmament, but did not constitute an argument for the indefinite extension of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. That subject must be examined at the 1995 Conference, which should consider revising the Treaty, for without such revision it would perpetuate a status quo which indefinitely postponed the possibility of mitigating the international military imbalance. The indefinite extension of the Treaty should be linked to real progress in

(Mr. Jaramillo, Colombia)

nuclear disarmament and particularly to the achievement of a comprehensive nuclear test ban.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.